

Remarks/Arguments:

Drawings

As requested, Figs. 15 and 16 have now been designated with the legend of "Prior Art".

Specification

As requested, the specification has been amended, deleting various lines on pages 10, 11 and 12.

Section 112 Rejections

Claim 22 has now been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

At page 13 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 11-14 would be allowable, if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant notes that the Examiner also indicated that claim 4 would be allowable. Applicant, however, believes that this is an error, as claim 4 has been rejected.

Applicant has now combined claims 11 and 1. Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Claim 11 has been cancelled.

Dependent claims 12-14 have now been amended so that each depends from amended claim 1. Amended claims 12-14 are also in condition for allowance.

Application No.: 09/867,910
Amendment Dated January 25, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 6, 2004

MTS-3254US

Section 102/103 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 have been rejected as being anticipated by Yamaji. The remaining pending claims have been rejected as being obvious in view of Yamaji and Karema, or Camp, or Sugimura, or Ribner, or Ritoniemi, or Borth, or Cojocar.

Claims 2-10 and 12-17 each depend from amended claim 1. These claims are, therefore, also in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Claims 1-10, and 12-17 are in condition for allowance. Claims 11 and 18-22 have now been canceled.

Respectfully submitted,



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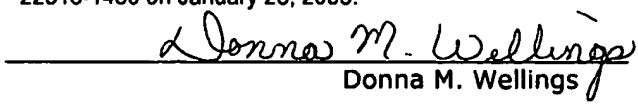
Enclosures: Figs. 15 and 16

Dated: January 25, 2005

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to:
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